

Drainage Water Management

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 554



DEFINITION

Drainage Water Management is controlling the removal of surface or subsurface runoff with water-control structures.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of regulating water in a drainage system is to manage moisture by controlling the outflow of drainage water. This practice applies to areas where drainage is needed during certain periods and where it is advantageous to limit the outflow at other times when the moisture can be utilized by crops or when wet conditions are needed to conserve organic material (organic soils). This practice is especially applicable in

highly permeable soils that have a low available water capacity, and in organic soils, mentioned above, that tend to subside when soil-moisture conditions are favorable for decomposition of organic material.

A plan of operations should be developed to assure objectives are met. Consideration should be given to matters such as the time and stage to hold water in ditches, pumping schedules, and coordination of these items with rainfall, season, crop needs and soil requirements.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.